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-----FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-----

MAYORS CALL ON GOVERNOR TO ASSIST IN CRIME REDUCTION

May 12, 2005 - Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez, along with Mayors John Fabrizi and John DeStefano, Jr. are asking the state to provide sustained assistance to support their crime reduction efforts. Mayor Perez says getting limited assistance for a finite period of time will not stop criminal activity in Connecticut's cities.

Mayor Perez says, "A band aid approach will not solve the problem." He adds, "What we need is more consistent help with undercover operations to get guns and drugs off the streets. We also need the state to help us address the issues of unemployment and prisoner release--- factors that affect crime in urban neighborhoods"

Mayor Perez, along with New Haven Mayor John DeStefano Jr. and Bridgeport Mayor John Fabrizi sent a letter to Governor Rell--- dated May 3rd. It states that these three cities "have made major inroads in the reduction of crime over the last decade."

Concerning Hartford's crime fighting efforts, the city's overall crime rate continues to go down in virtually every category. Unfortunately, the City has one more homicide than this time last year. The Mayor and Police Chief Patrick Harnett continue to say that one death is too many, but that the City is redoubling it's efforts to continue to reduce crime in all of our neighborhoods.